Crop loss due to thunderstorms

3047. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that untimely thunderstorms and rain lashed many parts of India in May-June of year, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss of crops due to this; and

(d) the contingency plan of Government to meet the shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Export of cow meat

†3048. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cow meat is being exported;

(b) if so, the earnings made from this export;

(c) whether this earning can not be compensated through other means; and

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries have held discussions on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Package for drought affected Bundelkhand

†3049. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special package was declared for Bundelkhand during the drought last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing the package so far;

(c) whether Government intends to provide the package this year; and

(d) if so, the concessions being provided for Bundelkhand in this special package and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) During South-West Monsoon (June-September) 2008, the districts in the Bundelkhand region generally received good rainfall and no report regarding drought in that region during 2008 was received.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial and logistic support. The State Governments have ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures. For additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities of severe nature, the State Governments are required to submit a Memorandum. No Memorandum for assistance from the NCCF for drought relief in the wake of deficient rainfall in that region during South-West Monsoon 2008 has been received. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above, assistance for providing fodder for cattle maintained in the cattle camps, assistance for transportation of drinking water, assistance towards supplementary nutrition and gratuitous relief.

Promotion of brackish water fisheries

3050. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote brackish water fisheries in the country including Jharkhand and other States; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Development of Brackish water Aquaculture is one of the seven components of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture'. Various States of the country can take-up this component for implementation for which financial assistance is shared between the Centre and State in a proportion of 75:25. Jharkhand however has no brackish water availability for aquaculture. No funds have been allocated under this component during the last three years and the current year so far.

Implementation of NFSM

3051. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in selected districts of a few States only;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the scheme all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is presently being implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States of the country with three components *viz*.